

support of an independent Khalistan and raising the Sikh flag. Those arrested and charged include Simranjit Singh Mann, a former Member of Parliament, who is out on bail after making a speech in support of Khalistan. Is making a speech a crime in a democracy? Is raising a flag a crime in a democracy? How can India claim it is democratic when people are arrested for making speeches and raising a flag?

These recent incidents are the latest in a pattern of repression by the Indian government that demonstrates why a free and sovereign Khalistan is needed. The Council of Khalistan convention helped maintain and increase support for that goal.

We can help the people in Punjab and throughout South Asia live in freedom, Mr. Speaker. We can do so by withholding aid and trade from India until it respects human rights and by putting the Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, predominantly Christian Nagaland, and all the nations seeking freedom from India. It's time to stop using violence and settle these matters democratically.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's press release on its convention into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Oct. 12, 2005]
COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN ANNUAL CONVENTION
VERY SUCCESSFUL

WASHINGTON, DC—Delegates came from Canada, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Memphis, Florida, Illinois, California, Washington, DC, and other locations to the Council of Khalistan's annual convention, which was held October 7-9, 2005 at the Sikh Gurdwara in Rochester Hills, Michigan. The convention was very well attended and successful. The delegates were enthusiastic in support of freedom for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987.

Resolutions were passed in support of a sovereign, independent Khalistan, in support of the Washington office, thanking the Sangat of Detroit, condolences for the victims of the earthquake in Kashmir, and other resolutions. Delegates spoke in support of independence for Khalistan and discussed the need to remain active on the grassroots level. They stressed the need for the active participation of Sikhs in this country and worldwide.

The Council of Khalistan has preserved the true history of the Sikh Nation since 1984 by documenting every major incident in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, internationalizing the Sikh struggle for independence, and exposing the Indian government's repression against the Sikhs and other minorities.

India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights groups and reported in the book *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjeet Singh Jaijee. It has also killed more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, and thousands of Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country, as well as tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits ("Untouchables," the dark-skinned aboriginal people of South Asia), Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities.

The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody

since 1984! Amnesty International reported that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

Cases were registered against dozens of Sikhs for raising the Sikh flag at the Golden Temple on the anniversary of the Golden Temple attack in the presence of over 30,000 Sikhs. Warrants have been issued for their arrest. The flag of Khalistan was also raised on Republic Day, January 26. 35 Sikhs were arrested at that time. Some of them have been denied bail.

Recently, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh formally apologized to the Sikh Nation for the genocide against the Sikhs in November 1984 in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in Deihl alone while Sikh police were locked in their barracks and Indian radio and television called for more Sikh blood. This apology establishes the Indian government's responsibility for the genocide against the Sikh Nation. India must end its occupation of Khalistan, which is the root cause of this genocide. Sikhs are a sovereign nation and they are fighting for their freedom.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will end the repression and lift the standard of living for the people of Punjab," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Democracies don't commit genocide."

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries. Steve Forbes, writing in *Forbes* magazine, said that India is doomed to disintegrate like the Austro-Hungarian Empire. "India is not a homogeneous state," Forbes wrote. "Neither was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It attacked Serbia in the summer of 1914 in the hopes of destroying this irritating state after Serbia had committed a spectacular terrorist act against the Hapsburg monarchy. The empire ended up splintering, and the Hapsburgs lost their throne." India is doomed to fall apart just as Austria-Hungary and the others did.

"We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted, "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom, he said, 'Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. India claims to be a democracy. It is time it recognized the right of self-determination for all people in South Asia,'"

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last month I visited Beijing and I saw again firsthand China's economic challenges as it continues to develop its free market economy.

We should remain concerned about outsourcing, but there are positive examples in America that our businesses are meeting the challenges stemming from trade with China.

Last week I attended the grand opening of Carolina Ceramics Brick Company, a success story which proves U.S. companies continue to improve productivity and energy efficiency. Richland County Council Vice Chairman Greg Pearce, Sen. Joel Lourie, advertising executive Elaine Gillespie, and company President Michael Borden spoke eloquently on the new achievements verified in the below article from *The State* of October 12, 2005.

[From the State, Oct. 12, 2005]

GROWTH PRODUCES DOUBLE REWARDS

(By Jim DuPlessis)

After Investing \$12 million this year at its Two Notch Road plant, Carolina Ceramics Brick Co. not only can make more bricks per worker, but also will avoid some of the pain this fall from skyrocketing natural gas prices.

The 66-year-old business in Northeast Richland can make a brick with 30 percent less natural gas with new equipment installed this year, president and majority owner Michael W. Borden said.

"You really can't control the natural gas price. All you can control is the amount you use. So we're trying to be as efficient as we can," Borden said.

While households are a few months away from their first post-Katrina natural gas heating bills, manufacturers are feeling the heat already. Manufacturers are paying \$14 per decatherm, double the price a year ago, and six times the price they paid in 2000.

Carolina Ceramics Brick today will celebrate completion of its expansion, which will allow the company to sell more than 2 million in bricks next year, double its sales in 2000.

The improvements also expanded capacity 45 percent, allowing two kilns to make as many as 80 million bricks per year, up from 55 million in 2000.

The company hired 15 more workers last summer and expects to hire five more, bringing its work force to 100 by year's end. The plant had employed about 80 workers since a similar upgrade on its other kiln in 2000.

Even with more workers, productivity has risen 16 percent. Each worker can make 800,000 bricks per year, up from 687,000 bricks per year previously.

Some of the productivity improvements have filtered down to the shop floor, with fewer lower-paying manual jobs.

Entry-level production workers make \$10 to \$12 per hour, while machine operators make \$14 to \$15 per hour. Average wages, including management, are more than \$20 per hour, Borden said.

The improvements also allow the company to absorb some of the energy price increase, but prices for brick are likely to rise at least 5 percent by early next year to compensate for at least part of the higher energy cost, Borden said.

Manufacturers of milk jugs, vinyl siding and other plastics are also hard hit by the higher price of natural gas, said Keith McCoy, vice president for energy and environmental policy for the National Association of Manufacturers in Washington, D.C.

Part of the increase in natural gas prices is because of short-term supply disruptions caused when hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast. Prices might drop somewhat after those drilling and pipeline facilities are back to full speed, but are expected to remain high enough to cause some companies to consider switching fuel sources, McCoy said.

"At nine to 10 dollars, it was very high for them, but it was something they could deal with," he said. At \$14, "that was the point companies would consider retrofitting their facilities to switch," McCoy said.

Carolina Ceramics switched to propane in the weeks after Katrina when natural gas supplies were curtailed. The company will continue to burn propane for a while because its price is now lower than natural gas.

But long-term cost savings depend on efficiency. Without the energy-saving improvements, Carolina Ceramics would be paying \$130,000 per month more for natural gas.

Borden, who turned 40 this year, started in the brick business working for his father, Frank Borden, 77, who ran a Borden Brick in Durham, N.C. The business had been started by Michael Borden's great-grandfather in 1911, but the family sold it in 1989 to Cherokee-Sanford Brick of Raleigh.

Frank Borden retired, but Michael Borden went to work for Cherokee-Sanford. When the company bought Carolina Ceramics in 1992, Borden moved to Columbia to manage it. A few years later, the company decided to sell it, and Borden's family bought it.

Carolina Ceramics was founded in 1939. It has sold about 80 percent of its bricks to builders of offices, schools and stores, but with its new capacity it is now going to supply more bricks to home builders, Borden said.

As the Gulf Coast recovers from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Borden expects brick demand will rise by early next year as contractors begin rebuilding homes, offices, schools and stores. "We would expect to see a lot of opportunities in that area when they get ready."

RECOGNIZING SISTER PAULA DELGROSSO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Paula DelGrosso of the Carmelite Community of the Word, Altoona, Pennsylvania, as the recipient of the 2005 John Riley Human Relations Award for community service. This award is presented each year to an individual who has performed outstanding and meritorious service to the community of Altoona through personal efforts by enhancing the dignity and worth of its citizens. This award is presented by the Blair County Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and is now in its sixteenth year of giving this award. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission has served the citizens of Pennsylvania faithfully since 1955 fighting the practice or policy of discrimination against individuals or groups by reason of their race, color, familial status, creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin or disability.

Sister DelGrosso is receiving this award in recognition for her lifelong commitment to the community of Altoona, but in particular for her special efforts over the past fourteen years as Director of the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen and Food for Families Food Bank in Altoona. Under Sister DelGrosso's guidance, the dining hall at St. Vincent DePaul's has been able to provide over 35,000 meals every year to needy people in the community. Thanks in large part to her steadfast leadership, the kitchen at St. Vincent DePaul's enjoys support

from various segments of the community ranging from the religious to the financial and from the public to the private sector. These are people within the community of Altoona who share different philosophies, beliefs and opinions, yet Sister DelGrosso has been able to bring them together in support of a worthy cause.

Sister Paula has led a life filled with compassion and dignity. Born in the town of Altoona, the daughter of Thomas and Mary DelGrosso, Sister Paula graduated from Altoona Area High School and Mt. Aloysius, before going on to graduate with a B.S. in Education from St. Francis University, and a Masters Degree and Supervision Certificate in Guidance and Counseling from Duquesne University. Her passion for education has imbued her life as she has served in the field of education for thirty-four years, with sixteen being spent as an elementary and secondary school teacher and eighteen years as Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Altoona/Johnstown Diocese.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Sister Paula DelGrosso for her lifelong commitment to the community of Altoona and I am proud to call Sister Paula a constituent.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EMMETT C. BURNS, JR.

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Emmett C. Burns, Jr., who is an outstanding delegate to the Maryland House of Delegates and who has been awarded this year's Thurgood Marshall Legacy Award by the Baltimore City Branch of the NAACP.

It is most fitting that Emmett Burns is the recipient of an award named for our Nation's first African-American U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Thurgood Marshall, who was born in Baltimore, was one of the most important figures in our Nation's struggle for civil rights. As chief attorney for the NAACP, he successfully argued the Brown v. Board of Education case before the Supreme Court, ending legalized segregation of our Nation's schools.

Since 1995, Emmett Burns has been a leader in the Maryland House of Delegates for the rights of all Marylanders. Most recently, he was instrumental in the enactment of a law to rename Maryland's largest airport the Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

As former head and lifelong member of the Baltimore NAACP, he has been a role model for the African-American community, providing a strong voice for social justice and equality. I have known Emmett Burns for many years and I consider him a friend whose advice I seek and value.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Del. Emmett C. Burns on being this year's recipient of the Baltimore City NAACP Thurgood Marshall Legacy Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF A NEW FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN FRESNO, CA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the completion of a spectacular new United States Courthouse in Fresno, California, that will serve the needs of the communities of the great Central San Joaquin Valley.

I am joined in this recognition by my colleagues, who also represent the City of Fresno and the communities served by this new facility, Representatives DENNIS CARDOZA, DEVIN NUNES and GEORGE RADANOVICH.

The new courthouse features 14 courtrooms and judicial chambers for the U.S. District Court, the U.S. Magistrate, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. It also includes facilities such as a library, conference rooms, jury assembly area, public cafeteria and offices for other federal agencies and elected officials.

This unique, nine-story building integrates the textures, colors and materials of the surrounding natural landscape of Fresno and the nearby Sierra Nevada mountain range.

The building began construction in April 2002 and was completed at a cost of \$116 million. It will accommodate 232 employees, who will serve hundreds of private citizens on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I join my colleagues in celebrating this momentous occasion for the communities of the Central San Joaquin Valley.

RECOGNIZING THE FINALISTS OF THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL'S YOUNG SCIENTIST CHALLENGE

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Science, I am an avid supporter of programs that encourage the youth of America to push the limits of innovation. One such program is the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

In 1999, Discovery Communications, Inc., designed the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge to help address America's chronic underachievement in K-12 science and math. The annual national contest responds to evidence that our students' academic performance and interest in science declines dramatically as they become older, particularly during the middle school years.

The Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge attempts to reverse that decline by identifying and honoring America's top middle school students with a demonstrated ability in leadership, teamwork, and scientific problem solving. More than 9,500 middle school students have accepted the challenge and have competed for the title of "America's Top Young Scientist of the Year." Since 1999, scholarship awards for the students have totaled more than \$500,000, and challenge winners have participated in science-related trips to far-off places, including the Roslin Institute